Blackmarketing of Petrol Products due to Imposition of Curbs in their Sale

1355. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI:

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI:

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that its new policy of petrol sale curb has led to hoarding and blackmarketing of petroleum products;

(b) whether Government have received memoranda from many sections of people and organisations in the country to withdraw its order to close down petrol pumps on Sundays and the reduction of working hours at pump stations;

(c) if so, what is the reaction of Government in this regard; and

(d) what is the estimated saving due to the curbs imposed recently?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADMSWAMY): (a) and (b) Government have received mixed reactions to the recently announced measures to curb the consumption of petroleum products. Some reports regarding hoarding and blackmarketing have also been received.

(c) Government, after examining the representations and reactions received, have partially relaxed the restrictions placed on operations of petrol pumps and have permitted them to be kept open from 7.00 A.M. to 12.00 Noon on Sundays.

(d) The estimated saving of petroleum products will be about 1.8 million tonnes valued at about Rs. 550 crores for the period July ('90 to March' 91).

Treatment of AIDS Patients

1356. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council of Medical Research has recently taken some steps to control and treatment of AIDS patients in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details of the steps taken/proposed to be taken;

(c) whether most of the AIDS patients have been identified in Bombay; and

(d) if so, what further steps Government propose to take to treat AIDS patients in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD): (a) and (b) The expert group constituted by ICMR recommended as under:—

—There is a need for formulation and implementation of appropriate policies for providing health care to infected individuals so that as and when needed they will receive humane and sympathetic handling counselling and appropriate health care and at the same time there is no risk of accidental infection.

—Provision of Health education to the risk groups and the general population and the strengthening of infection control measures.

—Rigid implementation of infection control measures in health care delivery system.

—Health education to seropositive individuals and their families is essential to ensure containment of HIV infection.

—All donors of blood and organs will always be tested for HIV antibodies. HIV testing may be done wherever there is a statutory re-

quirement e.g. overseas students. HIV testing may be done for research purposes on approved research protocols with Institutional and ICMR clearances.

—The Government have considered the recommendation of ICMR and accordingly an infection control committee has been made functional in four designated hospitals in metropolitan cities. Training coures have been/are being organised for training of medical, para-medical and laboratory staff.

The Directorate General of Health Services issued detailed guidelines regarding handling and disposal of dead bodies of AIDS cases, care of HIV infected persons and prevention of accidental infection in hospitals.

(c) Yes.

(d) Government of India has drawn up Medium Term plan for prevention of AIDS. In the Medium Term plan, it has been decided to strengthen the existing facilities for treatment of AIDS infected patients at the identified Medical Colleges and Hospitals in the country. The expansion of the facilities include :

—providing clinical care to patients with HIV infection.

—providing counselling to the patients and their spouses/relatives.

—providing continuous medical care to the out-patients.

—collecting data on clinical profile, immunological profile, opportunistic infections and other manifestation of HIV infection.

—providing training facilities to medical and para-medical personnel in the management of HIV patients.

Ill Effects of Smoking and Chewing of Tobacco

1357. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item appearing in the "Indian Express" of the 31st May, 1990 captioned "India in grip of tobacco epidemic";

(b) whether lakhs of people die premature due to smoking and chewing of tobacco;

(c) if so, whether Government have taken/propose to take any fresh steps to create awareness about ill effects of smoking and chewing of tobacco; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD): (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) The use of tobacco is substantial health hazard. However, no scientific data regarding number of pre-mature deaths due to smoking and chewing of tobacco in the country is available. The data from the National Cancer Registry project of Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi has shown that about 1/3rd of all the cancer cases relate to the use of tobacco.

(c) and (d) Various health education measures are being undertaken to educate the people about the ill effects of smoking and use of tobacco. "World No Tobacco Day was celebrated on 31st May, 1990" to bring about awareness amongst the masses against smoking and consumption of tobacco.

Overcharging on Drugs

1358. CHOUDHARY RAM SEWAK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) what are the details of the cases of overcharging which have come to the notice of Government under DPCO, 1979 and 1987;